



## Museum of Alaska Transportation & Industry

P.O. Box 870646 • Wasilla, AK 99687  
Ph: (907) 376-1211 • Fax: (907) 376-3082

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### Final Report

#### Valley Garden Club

Thank you. The entrance to the Museum looks wonderful and inviting to our seasonal and repeat visitors. Please see attached pictures.

We chose to change the configuration from mass rectangles on either side of the front entrance to narrower beds which outlined the building and front porch. The shallower depth of these beds makes it easier to reach into the beds and maintain. We found that we still had some quality heirloom columbines from Pat Duran's mother that we wished to save and utilize. Because of these we chose not to rototill the area but hand dug pulling weeds with their roots and seeds as we progressed. Rototilling would have churned these into the soil. Large quantities of Miracle Grow were added to revitalize the sadly depleted soil.

About 90% of the plants are perennials with about 10% annuals mostly used to add accent color in the form of hanging baskets and selectively placed potted plants. We utilized perennial plants that were differing shades of green which gave depth and color even without flowering plants. The various height of the plants breaks up the straight line of the building and creates interest. Because we used the variety of green colors we didn't achieve the blue and yellow theme that we had originally planned. Cost and types of plants available contributed to this decision.

The remaining area which was previously part of the original large weedy plot was cleared, underlined with plastic and filled in with gravel. This makes the boat and small tractor which were set in this area really stand out and allows visitors to easily approach them.

We realize that the continued use of the railroad ties is not healthy for the garden area. Cost and volunteer labor contributed to this decision but other material will be utilized in the future.

Planting was done by volunteers Marilyn Bennett and Carmen Summerfield. Maintenance weeding was done by members of the Homeless Coalition, the Valley Arts Alliance and the Palin Foundation.

We have placed thank you signage on the wall just to the right as you enter the porch above the garden. It is very visible to all who enter. Our newsletter announced your contribution to the beautification of our Museum and our Director mentioned your generous grant on the local radio. Anyone who has been to our Museum before cannot help but notice the beautiful change your grant has made in the Museum entrance.